

Home
Search
News
Columns
Economy Watch
Entertainment
For the Record
Gosport - U.S. Navy
Hook, Line & Sinker
Hurricane Guide
Life
Health
Homestyle
Local
Money
Neighbors
Obituaries
Opinion
Santa Rosa Extra
Sports
Football
Town Hall
Weather
Weekender
National News
AP Reports
Technology
Classifieds
Cars
Coupons
Homes
Jobs
Services
Help Desk
Send Us Comments

[News](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Business Directory](#) | [Homes](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Newspaper](#)

STORY SEARCH: [Past 30 days](#) | [What's available](#)

[Feature](#)

 [Subscribe to the News Journal](#)  [Rate this page](#)  [E-mail this page](#)  [Print this page](#)  [Subscribe to the News Update](#)

PUBLISHED SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2003

There is no quagmire; progress is being made in Iraq

By U.S. Rep. Jeff Miller

Again, the national media and liberals in Washington, D.C., refuse to admit the truth. They claim no plan is in place for post- Saddam Iraq. They focus only on death and destruction.

The King Democrat Ted Kennedy accuses President Bush of making up a need for the war in Iraq and that it was a fraud. Has 34 years erased from his memory the cover-up of Chappaquiddick? Talk about making things up and perpetuating fraud.

As we approach the 2004 presidential elections it is becoming increasingly clear that those who wish to unseat President Bush will even attempt to tarnish the valiant efforts and great successes of those men and women who have won the battle and are now trying to "win" the peace.

Having returned from Iraq just a few days ago, I saw firsthand a very different picture than what you see on the nightly news and hear described by the likes of Ted Kennedy, Chuck Schumer, Nancy Pelosi and all those who wish to become president.

There is no quagmire. Remember, these are the same people who said our troops were "bogged" down as they rapidly advanced toward the capital city.

The coalition's current objectives are to establish security and to promote the creation of a representative government with an institutional market-based economy that provides broad opportunity throughout Iraqi society.

Already, 90 percent of Iraqi communities have democratically electoral government bodies. They are now realizing that they are the answer,



Have the
NEWS UPDATE
 delivered to your
 e-mail inbox
 each weekday!

and it is their ideas and opinions that will shape the future of their country.

Attaining these objectives can be a huge step toward peace in the Arab world and finally establish a strategic ally in the Middle East. Members of al-Qaida see the momentum in Iraq moving in the direction of democratic representation. One of their Web sites says that defeating democracy in Iraq is for them the most important battlefield in their campaign to impose their twisted way of thinking on the world and on other Muslims.

Why? "Because," they write, "if democracy succeeds in Iraq, it could teach Arabs that a good life is possible on this Earth. And they could come to love life too much and fear death and be unwilling to become martyrs." That tells you the kind of people we're dealing with. Sick minds and twisted logic. But it also tells you that success in the battle for democracy in Iraq will be a major victory in the war on terrorism.

Indeed, our ground forces have made significant progress in meeting these objectives. Not only do they continue to fight a "low-level" war, they have completed more than 6,000 different projects. Those projects range from reopening all of the schools and hospitals to getting electrical supplies back up and providing fresh drinking water with purification systems.

We continue working toward turning the defense of the country over to Iraqi forces. Our forces are training a new Iraqi Army and special police forces. Currently, they have trained 40,000 officers with about 30,000 more to go.

President Bush never said the process would be easy or quick. I am heartened by recent poll results that show 7 in 10 Iraqi people expect their country to be better in the future. American Enterprise has reported that a vast majority of Iraqis want their new government to be modeled after the United States.

To a person, every single soldier I spoke with said the mission was a just mission, and the United States has done the right thing. When I looked at the Iraqi people I could see the respect and gratitude they have for the military men and women who have liberated them from the monster named Hussein.

The rebuilding process in Iraq is progressing well and the coalition forces continue to win over the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. But Iraq is still not a safe harbor of democracy.

On Sept. 14, I flew from Baghdad to Kuwait with the body of Sgt. Trevor A. Blumberg. Sgt. Blumberg was a victim of a cowardly attack conducted by those who did not want freedom or peace in Iraq. His

vehicle struck an improvised explosive device, injuring three soldiers and killing him. He gave the last full measure of devotion to a cause that is just. He and his comrades have liberated a people who lived under a horrific regime led by a leader who raped, tortured and murdered anyone who spoke against him.

Sgt. Blumberg made the ultimate sacrifice to free a people he did not know and to protect Americans whose faces he had never seen.

The mission in Iraq is a just and noble one. Our troops, the Coalition Provisional Authority and our military leaders are performing their jobs exceptionally. It is my hope that the news media will follow suit and report the whole story of what is really happening in Iraq.

To do anything else is an injustice to Sgt. Blumberg and to every other serviceman and woman who have fought and died in this conflict.

U.S. Rep. Jeff Miller R-Chumuckla, represents Florida's First Congressional District in the House of Representatives.

E-mail this page

Your name:

Your e-mail:

Send to e-mail:



[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Business Directory](#) | [Homes](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Classifieds](#)

Copyright © 1997-2003 The Pensacola News Journal, Pensacola, Florida.
Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) (updated 12/20/2002).